

# city **scene**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

**[BLACK] HISTORY [MONTH]**



Selfie Spot, painted by Dave Barr



A Postcard from Fairfax City, painted by Gabe Brown

## New Murals Add Splash of Color in Old Town

**T**wo new murals on the south-facing wall of Draper's Restaurant in Old Town Square provide a little color and fun to Fairfax City's historic downtown. Fifteen artists answered the Economic Development Authority's call for public art. Members of the EDA, Parry Restaurant Group, City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts Public Art Committee, and city staff selected local artists Dave Barr and Gabe Brown. "It's been a team effort between Cultural Arts and EDO from the beginning," said Megan DuBois,

cultural arts manager for the city.

Barr's mural, *Selfie Spot*, reads "Wish You Were Here" in bold, colorful graphics. "It's eye-catching and playful and something we've all said to someone before," said Barr. "The goal is to contribute to the cultural soul of the city, to inspire people to visit Draper's, visit Fairfax, and to engage with the artwork. Art should be for everyone."

Brown's mural, *A Postcard from Fairfax City*, offers a warm greeting from the city to passing pedestrians and motorists, with a nod to the city's schools, restaurants, youth sports, music and arts scene, and relationship

to George Mason University. "I wrote down a vision statement earlier this year to make Fairfax beautiful for everyone, and a big part of that is public art," said Brown. "This is my love letter to all the people of the city."

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# CITY NEWS

## City Government Offices Holiday Closures

### Monday, Feb. 21, *President's Day*

- Closed: city government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
- CUE Bus: modified weekday service

## Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- Feb 21: no service
- Feb. 22: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

*Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide Feb 21-26. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837*

## Proposed Changes to Gold CUE Bus Route

Minor modifications to the Gold CUE Bus route have been proposed to serve residents living in new developments at Fairfax Circle and Layton Hall Drive. A public hearing is slated for Feb. 8. Route changes would be implemented in August if approved. Info: [cuebus.org](http://cuebus.org)

## Nominate Women of Influence Through Feb. 11

The City of Fairfax Commission for Women seeks nominations for the 2022 Women of Influence Award. This gives you the opportunity to recognize and celebrate some of the outstanding women who live in the city and have made a significant impact on the lives of city residents. For eligibility requirements and to submit a nomination, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Women of Influence"). To request a paper ballot, call 703-385-7894.

## 2021 Business Recycling Report Due March 1

City business owners must submit their annual commercial recycling reports to the city electronically

between January 1 and March 1 using a form on the city website. The report details actual or estimated weight or volume of recycled materials provided by the business' recycling vendors. Info: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Commercial Recycling Report")

## Home Heating Assistance Available Through March 15

City residents who need help with heating bills this winter may apply for Fairfax County Family Services Crisis Assistance through March 15. Crisis assistance can be used to pay bills for utilities that are in danger of being disconnected. Info: [fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/public-assistance-employment-services](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/public-assistance-employment-services)

## Yard Waste: Bin It, (Paper) Bag It, or Bundle It!

City Council passed a law last June banning the use of plastic bags for yard waste disposal— and **beginning March 1, plastic bags will not be collected from the curb.** Please begin using paper bags, twine, or refuse receptacles for curbside yard waste debris. Info: [refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov), 703-385-7837

## Stormwater Utility Goes Into Effect July 1

City Council voted to amend City Code Chapter 102 (Utilities) and establish a stormwater utility, which will begin July 1. The first stormwater utility fee will appear as a line item on the second real estate tax bill due in December.

## Winter Weather FAQs

Winter is a fact of life in Fairfax City. Here are answers to frequently asked questions about inclement winter weather — and check out the city's winter weather information flyer at [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Winter Weather").

- **Park Cars Off-Street** — When snow and ice are forecast, park off-street when possible, in driveways and community parking lots, so crews have easy access to treat and plow the roads.
- **Clear Sidewalks for Safety** —

## FEBRUARY IS [BLACK] HISTORY [MONTH]

### Unequal Access: Segregation of Fairfax County Libraries, Feb. 13

Learn about new research on segregation in Fairfax County public libraries from library staff members Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne LaPierre. The free virtual talk begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 13. Join the discussion from your phone, tablet, or computer. Info: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Unequal Access")

### Slave Trading in the Civil War South, Feb. 26

Robert Colby, a postdoctoral fellow at Christopher Newport University, will speak on the survival of the trade in slaves during the U.S. Civil War. The free virtual talk begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 26. Join the discussion from your phone, tablet, or computer. Info: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Slave Trading")

Remove snow from sidewalks on your property promptly to help pedestrians, including school-children, travel safely to bus stops and around the neighborhood. It is not a law, but it makes the community safer.

- **Driveway Shoveling Tip** — Pile snow off the street, to the left of the driveway (facing the driveway from the street). If possible, wait to shovel the driveway apron until after plows clear your street (and in front of your driveway) to avoid shoveling any snow unintentionally moved by plows.
- **Clear Hydrants** — Please clear a 3-foot area around your neighborhood fire hydrants so fire-fighters can access it immediately in an emergency.



# COUNCIL REPORTER

**PLEASE NOTE:** summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and click on "City Meetings."

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF DECEMBER 14, 2021

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of authorizing the extension of the Dockless Mobility Scooter Pilot Program; Consideration of sale of a cemetery site to a non-City Resident; Consideration of a resolution consenting to a Sixth Amended and Restated Declaration of Local Emergency, relating to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved, 5-0-1: Consideration of the City of Fairfax 2022 Legislative Program. (*Councilmember Yi abstained.*)
- Approved, 5-0: Introduction of an ordinance approving and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for the placement small-cell wireless communications facilities on joint use utility poles in the public right of way. (*Councilmember Yi recused himself.*)

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, to defer the public hearing and Council action on an ordinance permanently vacating, discontinuing, and closing a portion of city public right-of-way (part of Cedar Avenue and Walnut Street) to January 11, 2022.
- Approved, 4-2, to enact an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 (Utilities) to add thereto a new Article V, pertaining to the establishment of a stormwater utility. The approved motion also amended the ordinance as presented to provide that the last sentence of subsection 102-207(A) should read in its entirety as follows: *Payment of the combined stormwater utility fee and the real property tax bill will be applied in the following order: first to any delinquent amounts due, then to the real property tax, then to the stormwater utility fee and then to any other taxes and fees.* Finally, the approved motion provided that the effective date for the stormwater utility will be July 1, 2022. Included in the approved motion was an amendment, made by Councilmember Lim and approved unanimously, to direct city staff to examine possible mechanisms, and the legality of doing the same, to reimburse property owners that own properties that are not subject to city real estate taxes, but would be subject to the stormwater fees, and further directed staff to report back to City Council regarding any findings prior to the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. (*In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Lim and Yi.*)

- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 (Taxation), Article II (Real Property Taxes) to add a new division 5, pertaining to a new solar energy equipment tax exemption. It was further moved that the city manager take all reasonable steps to maximize potential participation in this program, including by bringing forth any necessary changes to the city's schedule of rates and levies to provide for the waiving of permitting fees associated with this program.
- Approved, unanimously to enact an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 (Taxation), Article II (Real Property Taxes) Division 3, pertaining to tax exemptions for the elderly or disabled.
- Approved, unanimously to move to approve a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$13,973,800 to implement and fund the initial phase of the City of Fairfax American Rescue Plan Act Spending Plan.
- Approved, unanimously to move to adopt the proposed budget guidelines to be used in the preparation of the FY23 Budget.

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, acceptance of the City of Fairfax FY 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

### REAPPOINTMENT FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS TO THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) COMMITTEES FOR 2022

- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint the Mayor and Councilmembers to the following Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) committees for calendar year 2022;

#### Independent Policy Boards:

COG Board of Directors: Mayor Meyer (alternate: Councilmember Miller); National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board: Mayor Meyer (alternate: Councilmember Yi); Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee: Councilmember Ross (alternate: Councilmember Stehle)

#### Policy Committees:

Region Forward Coalition: Councilmember Lim (alternate: Councilmember Miller); Human Services Policy Committee: Councilmember Miller (alternate: Councilmember Lim); Climate Energy and Environmental Policy Committee: Councilmember Harmon (alternate: Councilmember Yi); Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Councilmember Stehle (alternate: Councilmember Ross)





Lestina and Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation board members.

## Dale Lestina Receives Fairfax Award, Part 2

*Longtime Mosby Woods resident Dale Lestina received the Fairfax Award during a ceremony on Dec. 5, 2021. Part 1 of this story ran in the January Cityscene.*

**S**olving the highway noise problem was no easy task. Lestina chaired the I-66 Citizens Coalition, which consisted of 21 civic associations from both sides of the highway between Route 50 to the Beltway. Lestina's eight-year leadership eventually led to new sound walls that reduced traffic noise for his neighbors, but it took playing an audio recording of cacophonous traffic noise at a City Council meeting and a congressman threatening to withhold state highway funding to get it done. "That opened the floodgates," said Lestina. The victory cemented his neighborhood as a force to be reckoned with. Mosby Woods has remained protected from encroachment during the recent widening project. "Our pool is still where it is," Lestina said with a sly smile.

"Never give up, never give up," said Lestina. "Just keep at it. That's been my style all through my athletic days. You never give up. You just

keep working away."

In the early 1990s, then-Mayor John Mason asked Lestina to chair the Fairfax 2020 Commission. The commission was tasked with charting a long-term vision for the city and laying out priorities for City Council to consider. The commission included 112 residents assigned to 12 committees with specific focus areas: economic development, land use, George Mason University relations, environment, community appearance, housing, education, social services, parks and recreation, public facilities, and the City Charter. A final report laid out the commission's findings, and committee chairs presented their recommendations at Old Town Hall. "Everything in the city today has roots in that report," said Lestina.

Notable recommendations that were acted on by succeeding City Councils include refurbished schools; redevelopment plans for Northfax, Fairfax Circle, and Kamp Washington; and the creation of the Economic

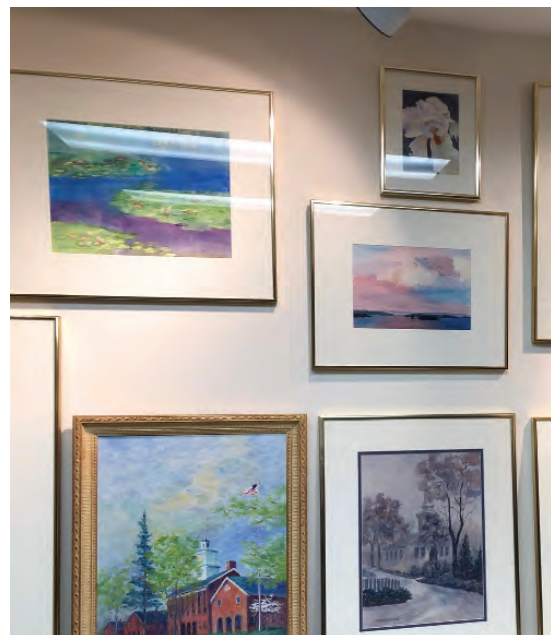
Development Authority.

Among his many contributions to the city, Lestina served on the city's Economic Development Authority for 17 years, including 12 years as chair (1998-2010). Under his leadership, the EDA created the Mason Enterprise Center, established a Business Development District along Fairfax Boulevard, and sold \$45 million in bonds for the redevelopment of Old Town and construction of the regional library.

Lestina and Bonita, who met at university, were married for 61 years before she passed away in 2020. Where Dale supported government functionality, Bonita supported arts in the city. She was a distinguished art copyist at the National Gallery of Art (the walls of their home are covered with her stunning paintings) and a talented Juilliard School-trained pianist and vocalist. Bonita taught music students in their home. "I would come home and have live music after work. I'd sit down in the living room and listen to either the piano playing or someone singing and so forth," Lestina recalled fondly. "Sometimes they would surprise me and they'd put on performances for me as an audience of one."

Bonita started the Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series in

*continued on page 5*







**Dale Lestina proudly displays wife's artwork throughout their home.**

## Dale Lestina Award

*continued from page 4*

Fairfax City, which continues to entertain city residents with a variety of free concerts every year. Remembering the early years of the performance series, Lestina said, "It got to be quite something. If people didn't get there early enough, they couldn't get in. The fire marshal wouldn't let them in. The place was packed!" Even during the pandemic, attendance at in-person series concerts remains high.

In 1988, Mosby Woods Park was renamed Dale Lestina Park. The park had been an open-air drug market before Lestina and George Snyder created Block Watch to put a stop to criminal activity there.

Lestina, who remains an active and respected civic leader, serves as the president of the Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation, an organization that provides affordable home improvement loans to city residents. He and his wife renovated their home around the millennium, and it occurred to him that it would "be nice if other folks had an avenue to do the same kind



## HELPING HANDS

### THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

#### BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

##### Board of Architectural Review

(one vacancy for business representative), **Board of Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy), **Board of Equalization** (two vacancies: one alternate member and one member), **Commission on the Arts** (two vacancies: one city resident and one George Mason University representative), **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (two vacancies), **Regional – Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board** (one vacancy), **Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board** (three vacancies), **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy), **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy), **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

*To apply, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.*

of thing." The program has resulted in more than \$24 million in loans for more than 260 projects in city homes. "Curb appeal affects your house," explained Lestina. "If you've got houses that do have not have curb appeal, they lessen the value of your home, and the trick is to keep the whole street up."

Lestina continues to look for ways to make a difference in his community. He starts his day by looking in the mirror and asking, "What will I do today?" Last year he participated in the Connecting Fairfax City for All initiative, in which he said he learned a lot about Virginia's history since the Civil War.

He recognizes that new people are moving into the city all the time, people who are busy making a living and who may not prioritize civic par-



## CURIOUS CITIZENS

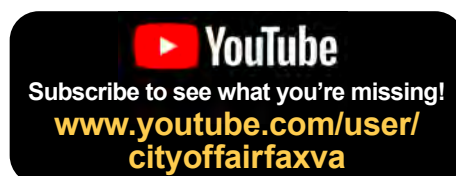
### How do I prevent rat infestations?

City residents are advised to keep trash and refuse to a minimum and stored in closed containers. Animal and wildlife feeders and pet feces are also easily accessible food for rats. Please use Fairfax City Resolve to report suspected rat infestations ("Report" button on [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov)).



ticipation. To them he would say, "Learn the issues. Get involved. The system exists for change, but it won't change if you're not involved. If you're not involved, you can't crab about what happens. Don't get caught into thinking *I am so darn busy I couldn't do anything more*. Well, you can. Look at our community, our governance structure, the issues being decided by City Council. You've got to do that if you want to keep the kind of city you're living in right now."

*Watch a video about Lestina on the city YouTube channel.*





## Fairfax City Loves Composting

This Valentine's Day, show your love to Mother Nature by composting your food waste at the composting center, adjacent to the community garden on the west side of City Hall (10455 Armstrong St.). As much as a quarter of Fairfax City's residential waste is organic material that can be composted. By composting, you turn what would otherwise end up completely wasted into a valuable, nutrient-rich compost which can be used as fertilizer. Valentine's Day remnants of dead flowers, spoiled leftover foods, and wax paper from baking all can be composted at the city's composting center. For more information on how to compost in the city, visit [fairfaxva.gov/composting](http://fairfaxva.gov/composting).



## LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

Upcoming programs and performances are listed in the events calendar at [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

### Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series (sponsored by Commission on the Arts)

**CANCELED:** *The Hot Lanes with Bobby J*  
8 p.m. Feb. 4, Sherwood Center

*U.S. Army Woodwind Quintet*  
8 p.m. Feb. 11, Old Town Hall

*QuinTango*  
8 p.m. Feb. 25, Old Town Hall

### ArtScreen (sponsored by Commission on the Arts)

*Umbrella of Cherbourg*  
7:30 p.m. Feb. 11, Sherwood Center  
Doors open at 7 p.m.

### Mason Arts at Old Town Hall

**CANCELED:** George Mason University School of Theatre  
7 p.m. Feb. 9, Old Town Hall

### Fall for the Book

Pop-Up Lit Night  
Brendan Slocumb, *Suspense & the Stradivarius*  
7 p.m. Feb. 24, Sherwood Center

### City of Fairfax Band

*Dancing into the 20's*  
7:30 p.m. Feb. 19, Fairfax High School  
Fee: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors, Students Free

### Main Street Community Band

*Winter Celebration!*  
4 p.m. Feb. 27, Kathrine Johnson Middle School  
Fee: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors, Students Free

### Language Arts 123 Competition

The City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts is eager to read residents' thoughts on diversity. The 2022 competition is open to participants ranging in age from fourth grade to adults. Submit a fictional story in the *I Love You Because You're Different* category or an essay in the non-fiction category *The City of Fairfax: A Model for Diversity*. The deadline to submit entries is 6 p.m. March 31. Information: [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) (search "Commission on the Arts")





## Kamp Washington

Join Community Development and Planning staff and the project consultant team led by Cunningham Quill Architects for a public meeting on updates to the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at Katherine Johnson Middle School. The consultant team will present their final concepts for the Kamp Washington study area and attendees will be able to ask questions and provide feedback.

Please visit the project page on Engage Fairfax in the coming weeks for the latest information. To stay up to date about the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan, please subscribe for project updates through the Engage Fairfax project page ([engage.fairfaxva.gov](https://engage.fairfaxva.gov)).



**TREE CITY USA®**  
Arbor Day Foundation



Fairfax City resident Amanda Murphy-Ishikawa fell in love with running in eighth grade.

## Women's Day Virtual 5K Supports City's Youth

Fairfax City resident Amanda Murphy-Ishikawa is hosting a virtual 5K in April to celebrate International Women's Day and raise \$10,000 for Girls on the Run.

"Every dollar raised will directly ensure that all interested girls have the opportunity to participate in this transformational program, regardless of their family's financial situation," said Murphy-Ishikawa.

GOTR is a nonprofit after-school running program designed to inspire girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength. The organization has served more than 80,000 girls throughout Northern Virginia since 2000.

Murphy-Ishikawa began coaching her team last year. She says she fell in love with running in eighth grade and it changed her life. She has completed four marathons and is training for two more in April. She wanted to bring her passion to an organization that uses running to teach empowerment to young girls at a critical time in their development.

"I have witnessed girls grow from shy or uninterested to excited to run laps and even win the end-of-season 5K," she said. "I am moved every time we finish practice and I hear them shout 'I love myself, I'm worth a lot,' as part of their team cheer. I hope those words stick with them throughout their lifetime."

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the run will be entirely virtual. The race

period is open March 7-13. Participants can choose their own route. Everyone is welcome to join, including individuals and groups of runners, joggers, and walkers. The female and male participants with the fastest times will each win a prize. All registrants who submit a time will be mailed a finisher's medal. The entry fee is \$35 (price increases after Feb. 20).

"Running is now more accessible than ever, and it can be empowering beyond measure to set a goal and watch yourself grow to achieve it," said Murphy-Ishikawa.

Register, donate, or learn more at [runsignup.com/womensday5k](https://runsignup.com/womensday5k). Contact [amandaishikawa@gmail.com](mailto:amandaishikawa@gmail.com) for sponsorship opportunities.

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Mayor David L. Meyer (david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov)

## City Council

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Janice B. Miller (janice.miller@fairfaxva.gov)

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**contact us**  
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## BUDGET REVIEW BEGINS FEBRUARY 22

Help the mayor and city council determine the city's financial priorities by participating in the annual budget review. The review begins when City Manager Rob Stalzer presents the proposed budget during the Feb. 22 council meeting.

Following the presentation, copies of the proposed budget will be available at [fairfaxva.gov/budget](http://fairfaxva.gov/budget). A limited number of copies are available in print, upon request; call 703-385-7870.

The city continues to seek public input until council adopts the final budget May 11.

The budget is a detailed description of how taxpayer money is spent. It explains the city's goals, proposed programs, and activities for that fiscal year.

You also are invited to participate in budget public hearings scheduled during council meetings on March 8, April 12, April 26, and May 11.

## CITY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

### FY23 BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE

**February 22** – FY23 Proposed Budget Presentation

**March 8** – City Council Budget Discussion Work Session

**March 22** – Public Hearing and City Council Budget Discussion Work Session; Consideration of Real Estate Tax Rate to be Advertised

**April 5** – City Council Budget Discussion Work Session; FY22 Quarterly Financial Review

**April 26** – Public Hearings for Real Estate Tax Rate; Introduction of C&I and Wastewater Rates

**April 27** – City Council Budget Discussion

**May 11 (Wednesday)** – Special Council Meeting – Public Hearings: Budget, Rates and Levies, C&I and Wastewater; Budget Adoption

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are cablecast on Channel 12 (Cox and Verizon) and livestreamed on the city website. Schedule is subject to change.